


### REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 10-12 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/12994, as interpreted by the English language equivalent 6,592,991, herein Wiesner et al. The Wiesner reference and the present application are both directed to the use of block copolymers to structure material. However, the procedure by which that happens and the materials used are completely different. The presently claimed composite material is formed by blending a homopolymer with a block copolymer to form a structured material which is then crosslinked using a radical polymerization reaction. Additionally, a structured non-oxide ceramic material is formed upon sintering of the structure. Conversely, the prior art forms a metal oxide structure using a completely different reaction scheme. The prior art uses sol-gel chemistry and not radical polymerization. The properties between non-oxide ceramics and metal oxide ceramics are quite different and non-oxide ceramics cannot be formed using the methods described in the prior art. For these reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-9, 13-16 and 20-22 are not taught nor suggested by the prior art. The prior art does not teach a silazane precursor or polymerizing a precursor by means of radical initiation. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are likewise in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the art rejections are overcome and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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